



Massapequa International Little League

Baseball Division Structure and Player Requirements

(Note: There have been no changes to our Softball Divisions)

Due to the multiple age cutoff changes initiated by Little League worldwide over the years, Massapequa International Little League has moved to restructure baseball divisions to allow kids to play together and develop at the same pace as kids of their Little League age. Children **LL Age 5 thru 8 yrs old**, will be placed in the proper division so that he/she will not be “overwhelmed” or “under challenged” and play with kids their Little League age. Children **LL Age 9 thru 16 yrs old** will be placed in divisions based on LL Age, available roster positions and Manager Draft selections.

***Division Placement** - Please review the following division descriptions (by LL Age Group) that pertain to your child. Should you need assistance or clarification, please contact the League Player Agent (contact information can be found at www.MassapequaInternationalLL.com under “About Us – Board Members”)

VERY IMPORTANT: Although placing and requesting your child to be with all of their friends is very tempting and, on the surface, seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level and also use this opportunity to meet new friends.



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Tee Ball 4/5-Year-Old Baseball

Overview:

The 4/5 Tee Ball Division is an introduction to baseball for both boys and girls. Players will learn the fundamental skills of the game, including hitting off a tee, running the bases, and basic fielding techniques. This division is designed to help young players build a foundation for baseball while having fun. One game played during the week and one on the weekend.

Batting:

- Proper Bat Grip & Stance: Players will learn how to hold a bat and stand correctly in the batter's box.
- Eye on the Ball: Players will develop skills to focus on the ball and make contact to put the ball in play.
- Swing Technique: Players will practice stepping and swinging to make contact with the ball.

Running:

- Base Running Basics: Players will learn how to run to 1st base after hitting the ball.
- Base Awareness: Players will understand when to stop at 1st base, continue to subsequent bases, and score runs.
- Running Technique: Players will be taught the correct way to run through bases and when to advance or stop.

Fielding:

- Fielding Positions: Players will learn about the different positions on the field and their responsibilities.
- Ready Position: Players will practice getting into the "Ready" or "Set" position.
- Catching and Throwing: Players will focus on glove positioning, catching, and learning how to throw the ball to 1st base.



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Sandlot 6/7-Year-Old Baseball - Coach Pitch

Overview:

This division introduces coach-pitched games using a soft safety ball, with players beginning to learn more advanced baseball concepts. A tee will be available for any player that needs it. Players should be placed in this division based on skill level rather than peer groups for a more positive experience. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.

Batting:

- Bat Grip & Hand Placement: Players will learn the correct way to grip the bat.
- Swinging Technique: Players will focus on swinging level and timing their swings.
- Batting Stance: Players will learn where to stand in the batter's box when addressing a pitched ball.

Running:

- Base Running: Players will learn when to stop at 1st base and when to advance to 2nd base.
- Base Stance: Players will practice proper base running form with one foot on the base and the other foot positioned toward the next base.
- Situational Running: Players will learn when to run on a force play and how to return to base when a fly ball is caught.

Fielding:

- Positions & Responsibilities: Players will learn all fielding positions and when to move to each based on coach instructions.
- Ball Handling: Players will learn to field the ball properly, make accurate throws to 1st base, and back up teammates in the field.
- Outs & Force Plays: Players will understand how to make outs at different bases and how to back up other players during plays.

Throwing:

- Grip & Technique: Players will focus on proper ball grip, foot planting, and stepping for overhand throws.



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Single A 7/8-Year-Old Baseball Division

VERY IMPORTANT: This is a draft division and special requests to play with certain kids or a specific coach will not be accepted.

Overview:

The 7/8 Single A Division introduces players to the next level of baseball, where they will begin transitioning from machine pitch to player-pitched games. This is the final year using a soft safety ball. Players should again be placed in this division based on their skill level for an optimal experience. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.

Player Requirements:

Players should be familiar with the following skills:

Batting:

- **Hitting a Pitched Ball:** Players will learn how to hit a pitched ball.
- **Strike Zone Understanding:** Players will learn the concept of balls and strikes, as well as understanding strikeouts and walks.
- **Base Running:** Players will know how to properly reach 1st base and follow through with running to other bases.

Running:

- **Base Running Skills:** Players will learn how to round the bases properly and understand when to stop or advance.
- **Tagging Up:** Players will learn how to tag up on a caught fly ball and other base-running strategies.

Fielding:

- **Understanding Force Outs:** Players will be taught the importance of force outs and how to execute them.
- **Backing Up Teammates:** Players will learn how to back up teammates on plays with minimal coach guidance.

Throwing:

- **Proper Throwing Technique:** Players will focus on the correct grip, planting their feet, and stepping before throwing overhand.



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Double A 9/10-Year-Old Baseball Division - 1st Year of Competitive Baseball

VERY IMPORTANT: This is a draft division and special requests to play with certain kids or a specific coach will not be accepted.

Overview:

This is the first year of “competitive” baseball and will be a Manager Draft division. Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The 9/10 Double A Division is the first level of competitive baseball. Player’s pitch, catch, and run the bases under "live ball" rules. This division is designed to give players a deeper understanding of the game and help them refine their skills. Games are played using a regulation hard ball. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.

Player Requirements:

Players should be proficient in the following areas:

Batting:

- **Hitting Skills:** Players should be able to differentiate between balls and strikes and should not shy away from pitched balls.
- **Pitch Recognition:** Players will learn how to protect themselves from errant pitches and time their swings.
- **Base Running:** Players should understand how to get to 1st base, run the bases correctly, and properly execute a bunt.

Running:

- **Base Running Fundamentals:** Players will learn when to break down at 1st base, how to round bases, and how to slide into a base.
- **Game Awareness:** Players will learn when to take an extra base, anticipate defensive plays, and follow base coach instructions.

Fielding:

- **Positioning:** Players will understand where to position themselves for the best chances of making outs and backing up plays.
- **Catching & Throwing:** Players will refine their ability to catch and throw accurately, including making relays from the outfield.



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Triple A 10/11/12 Year Old Baseball Division

VERY IMPORTANT: This is a manager draft division and special requests to play with certain kids or a specific coach will not be accepted.

Overview: Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Triple A division is the next level of play after the Double A Division and players advance to a higher level of competitive play. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.

- Little League age 12 yr old’s that opt out of the Majors Division and Little League age 10 and 11 yr old players not drafted into the Majors Division will be placed in the Triple A Division draft.
- The number of 10 yr old drafted into the Triple A division will be based on Manager perceived skill level and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers.
- Little League 10 yrd old not drafted into the Triple A division will play in the Double A division.

Majors 10/11/12 Year Old Baseball Division

VERY IMPORTANT: This is a draft division and special requests to play with certain kids or a specific coach will not be accepted.

Overview: Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Major Division is the most competitive division for 10, 11, and 12-year-olds. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.

- All Little League age 12 yr old players will automatically be drafted into this division unless specially requested by a parent to play in the Triple A Division.
- Parents can request that their 10 yr old be drafted into this division, but there are no guarantees.
- As this is a Manager Draft Division, Managers will draft 10, 11 and 12 yr old players based on perceived skill level of players and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers.
- Little League age 10 & 11 yr old players not drafted into the Major Division will be placed in the Triple A Division draft.
- No team in the Majors Division can draft more than two 10 yr old players (subject to change with Board Approval).

Junior / Senior 13/14/15/16-Year-Old Baseball Division

VERY IMPORTANT: This is a draft division and special requests to play with certain kids or a specific coach will not be accepted.

Overview: The Jr/Sr Division is the next step for players after the Majors, played on a 90 ft diamond. This division continues to build on fundamental skills while focusing on proper baseball play at the high school level. Players will participate in competitive games under Little League rules. One game played during the week and one on Saturday.